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TO: Selected District Superintendents and Principals in Cohort 1 of Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP)

FROM: Joanne Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch

The purpose of this letter is to inform schools in Cohort 1 of the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP) of the next phase of their participation in II/USP.

All schools in II/USP are subject to the accountability provisions included in the Public Schools Accountability Act (Education Code Section 52050 et. seq.). Once the calculations for the 2002 Academic Performance Index (API) are completed, a determination will be made as to whether a school has met annual growth targets, has made significant growth as defined by the State Board of Education, or has failed to make significant growth and is thus subject to state sanctions.

In February 2002 the State Board of Education adopted a definition of “significant growth:”
“II/USP schools in Cohort 1 that have made positive growth on their schoolwide Academic Performance Index (API) in either of the two years of implementation will have achieved “significant growth” and receive a third year of funding as provided for in the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999.”

Application of this definition will result in three distinct groups of schools:

- Schools in Cohort 1 that met their annual growth targets and all significant subgroup targets for both years of II/USP implementation will exit II/USP and may be eligible for rewards in future years pending availability of funds.
- Cohort 1 schools that failed to meet annual API growth targets and fail to show significant growth during both years of II/USP implementation will be deemed “low-performing schools” as defined in the Public Schools Accountability Act, and will be subject to state intervention. Schools that failed to make significant growth during their first year of implementation will receive information in the next several days as to the next steps in the accountability process.

- All other II/USP Cohort 1 schools will receive a third year of II/USP funding in order to continue implementation of their action plans. However, schools that were in Cohort 1 of the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (CSRD) Program are NOT eligible for an additional year of funding.

We anticipate release of the 2002 growth API results on October 17, 2002. Once the API results are known, the estimated grant awards for schools eligible for third year funding will be posted at the CDE Web site, <www.cde.ca.gov/i/iusp>. Districts will be notified regarding the status of each of their Cohort 1 II/USP schools and will receive additional information about requirements and funding.

Should you have any questions regarding II/USP funding, please call the School Reform Assistance Office at 916.319.0839.